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HIGHLIGHTS

Development of the Policy Paper

INDIAN CONTROL OF INDIAN EDUCATION

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HIGHLIGHTS

Development of the Policy Paper

INDIAN CONTROL OF INDIAN EDUCATION

DATES

1971

- January (1) Paper on Education issued by Indian Association of Alberta
- August Paper on Education issued by Union of Ontario Indians
- October Paper on Education issued by Manitoba Indian Brotherhood
- October Paper on Education issued by Union of Nova Scotia Indians

1972

- January Paper on Education issued by Yukon Native Brotherhood
- March Paper on Education issued by the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs
- April Paper on Education issued by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians
- August Paper on Education issued by the Union of New Brunswick Indians

1971

- June 22 (2) Report on Indian Education tabled in the House of Commons by the House Standing Committee on Indian Affairs; 17 Recommendations to the Government.

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1972

May 17-18

(3) Resolution of Executive Council at Yellowknife

MOTION: That an Educational Conference be called in the immediate future consisting of educational experts from the Provincial and Territorial Organizations.

MOTION: That the following topics, namely Education form the basis as policy items of the discussions for the Negotiating Council of the National Indian Brotherhood for its deliberations with the federal Ministerial Committee after national position papers have been accepted by the National Indian Brotherhood.

May 17

(4) Proposals for dialogue between the National Indian Brotherhood Negotiating Committee and the Ministerial Committee of the Government prepared by the Special Committee of the National Indian Brotherhood Executive Council. Specifications on the issues that an Education Committee should work on.

June 7-9

(5) Education Workshop

- Called in response to the Yellowknife motions
- Representatives from all organizations
- Work on the issues designated by the Executive Council
- All Education papers issued by organizations as listed above, used as basis for national position paper
- Indian Association of Alberta paper prepared especially for the Workshop and used in drafting the policy
- Draft paper prepared for the General Assembly

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1972

August 6-8

(6) General Assembly

MOTION: That we adopt this Educational Paper in principle but that amendments, inclusions or proposals by any other provincial/territorial organization be considered before the Paper becomes a national policy of the Indian People of Canada.

September

- (7) Four draft revisions of the policy text based on submissions by the provincial organizations.

October

November

October 24

Memo sent to all leaders with an urgent request to study the revised paper so that there would be total agreement on its contents.

October 12

- (8) Minister's request for N.I.B. Executive Council to study his draft statement responding to the 17 Recommendations of the House Standing Committee. Mr. Manuel's letter to the Minister including a summary of the position taken by the N.I.B. in its policy paper, with a request for the Minister to delay his statement to the Standing Committee until the Policy Paper was completed.

Copies sent to all organizations.

November 20

- (9) Executive Council Meeting in Winnipeg

MOTION: (Philip Paul, Harold Cardinal)

That the Provincial and Territorial Organizations direct the N.I.B. National Office of their position on the final revision of the Education Policy Paper, as well as whether this paper can be used as a policy/reference paper; and,

That the Provincial and Territorial positions/directions on the paper in question be submitted to the National Office by December 10, 1972.

1972

November 23 (10) Treasury Board Authority to enable Indian Band Councils to manage in-school education programs.

December 21 (11) Presentation of the policy paper INDIAN CONTROL OF INDIAN EDUCATION to the Minister of Indian Affairs. Telex sent to all organizations.

1973

January (12) Meetings with A.D.M. and Education people to explain Policy Paper.

January 12 (13) Memo from George Manuel to Provincial and Territorial Organizations listing all modifications resulting from discussions with the Department. Also, information that the Minister was ready to table the paper in the House of Commons in response to the House Standing Committee's Report on Indian Education.

January 30 (14) Letter from the Minister expressing positive reaction to the paper. This letter was sent to all organizations.

February 2 (15) Letter from the Minister to assure the N.I.B. "That I and my Department are fully committed to realizing the educational goals for the Indian people which are set forth in the policy proposals". Copies sent to all organizations.

February 7-8 (16) Regional Superintendents of Education Meeting. N.I.B. was present to explain the policy paper and answer questions. Report of meeting sent to all organizations.

April 19 (17) Letter from the Minister inviting the N.I.B. to form a joint implementation committee with the Department. Copies sent to all organizations.

May 7-9

(18) Executive Council Meeting, Ottawa

MOTION: That an Education Director be set up by the National Indian Brotherhood, and terms of reference for such will be determined by the National Indian Brotherhood Executive Council

(This in effect was a rejection of the Minister's plan for a joint implementation committee).

May 24

Joint appearance before the House Standing Committee on Indian Affairs of the Minister and Mr. Manuel. The Minister stated: "I have given the National Indian Brotherhood my assurance that I and my Department are fully committed to realizing the educational goals for Indian people which are set forth in the Brotherhood's proposal".

June (19) Proposal for an Indian Education Directorate prepared and submitted to organizations for reactions.

July (19) Proposal submitted to the Department for study. Negotiations with the Department for funds to operate an independent directorate.

August 10

(20) Minister's Memo to Chiefs and Councils re: education policy.

September 21

(21) Letter from the Minister accepting the N.I.B. plan for an independent Indian Education Directorate with information on funding for this fiscal year. Copies sent to all organizations.

September
25-27

(22) General Assembly, Quebec City

MOTION: That the National Indian Brotherhood form a Directorate as proposed at the Executive Council Meeting of May 7, 8, and 9, 1973; and,

That funds be acquired from the Department of Indian Affairs for the purpose of setting up a Directorate; and,

1973

That the Provincial and Territorial organizations delegate a person responsible in Education to work with the Directorate; and,

That the implementation of INDIAN CONTROL OF INDIAN EDUCATION be left to the discretion of the Bands and people concerned.

October 21

Negotiations with the Department for funds to convene an Education Workshop in January.

There must be Indian participation in the formulation of GUIDELINES for Indian Control of Indian Education.

December 21

Minister's Memo to Chiefs and Councils re: opting out of joint school agreements.

1974

January 29-30

Education Workshop, Saskatoon

Participation of band leaders involved in local control of education. Directives given to the NIB:

1. NIB should take the initiative in arranging more meetings.
2. NIB should act as a clearing house for information on local control.
3. NIB should insure that there is 100% input from Indian people in the drawing up of guidelines for local control.

March 5

Delegation of bands (James Smith, Keehewin, Tobique) to discuss capital funding in local control with the Minister.

1974

- March 10 Ministers Memo to Regional Directors re: policy and capital monies.
- May 22-23-24 Meeting of Yukon territorial education people with D.I.A. to discuss the policy as it should be applied in the Yukon. N.I.B. was present at the request of the Yukon Native Brotherhood.
- June 5-6-7 Education Workshop Session, Clear Lake Manitoba with organization education officers to discuss problems and strategy.
- September The National Office of the Education Directorate is headed by Verna Kirkness. A secretary and consultant complete the staff.
- October 31 - November 1 Education Workshop, Ottawa
- An inventory was made of the problems and progress of Indian Control of Indian Education in each province and territory.
- Alternatives to the Department's guidelines were discussed.
- Legislative protection for bands administering school programs was related to revision of the Indian Act.
- December 4-6 Executive Council Meeting
A resolution is passed designating education as one of the topics for the proposed meeting between the Executive Council and the Cabinet.

1975

- January 15-16 Ad Hoc Planning Committee Meeting, Edmonton
Three items are identified for the national workshop:
- documentation of policy violations;
- position paper on implementation of Indian Control of Indian Education;
- information booklets describing local control for distribution to bands.
- January 28-30 Executive Council Meeting
A resolution is passed specifying the focus of the discussion on education with Cabinet.

1975

- February 17-18 Executive Council Meeting
Accepts the position paper prepared by the National Office as a statement of principles on education which will be part of the Cabinet presentation.
- February 23-26 Education Workshop, Mount Currie, B.C.
Documentation of policy violations is begun as well as agreement on topics for N.I.B. information booklets.
- March 25-27 Executive Council and Special General Assembly Resolutions passed:
-- accepting the 3 papers on education prepared by the National Office with the collaboration of the provincial education officers;
-- including "incorporation" in the position paper;
-- stating that a legislative base for the policy "Indian Control of Indian Education" be considered in any revision of the Indian Act.
- April 14 Meeting between the Executive Council and the Cabinet
These three documents were presented:
- Position Paper on Education;
- Examples of the Kinds of Difficulties Encountered by Individuals, Band Councils and Education Authorities in Exercising Parental Responsibilities and Local Control in Education
- Documentation of Policy Violations.
- April 15 Meeting between the Minister of Indian Affairs and Education representatives of the National Indian Brotherhood
Objections to the education guidelines were repeated and arguments put forth to convince the Minister that a moratorium of one year was necessary. His answer was received in a letter to Mr. Manuel dated April 21, 1975. He stated that the guidelines already issued will remain in effect and others in the draft stage would be formally approved by the end of June. He described the guidelines as of "interim character", subject to modification on the basis of proposals expressed by Indian representatives prior to the 1976-77 fiscal year.

1975

April 18-20

N.I.B. Leadership Training Workshop, Winnipeg
Fifty participants received professional training
in the skills required to conduct meetings at the
reserve level. The emphasis was on ways to promote
the maximum participation of people in community
affairs.

May 12

Workshop conducted by the National Indian Brotherhood
for headquarters staff of the Department of
Indian Affairs, Ottawa
The purpose of the exercises which made up the
one-day workshop was to improve communications
between the two national offices, and to come
to some common definition of Indian Control of
Indian Education.

May 21-22
and
June 16

Education Committee Meeting, Ottawa
Representatives of the Yukon Native Brotherhood, the
Federation of Saskatchewan Indians and the National
Indian Brotherhood met together and with the Indian
Act Sub-Committee to consider what changes to
Sections 114-121 of the Indian Act could be
recommended.
These two committees, i.e. Education-Indian Act,
were among the four established as a result of the
N.I.B.-Cabinet meeting to prepare material for the
next meeting in the Fall.

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